

Coleoptera from Rothamsted light traps at
Monks Wood National Nature Reserve,
Cambridgeshire during 1976

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Although a wide variety of light traps are used extensively by Lepidopterists, comparatively little attention has been paid in the British Isles to the representatives of other orders which may be caught. Indeed, large Burying beetles of the genus *Necrophorus* and a number of Chafers and Dung beetles of the family Scarabaeidae are generally quickly discarded since they rapidly render delicate moths useless. Walsh & Dibb (1954) state "those species (of Coleoptera) recorded as coming to light in Britain are only common species", and they list only ten examples. This has been the long-held belief by many entomologists and goes some way to explaining the lack of information, and indeed interest in this method of collecting Coleoptera. A notable exception has proved to be *Odontaeus armiger* (Scop.) one of our rarer Scarabaeidae. Britton (1956) describes it as "very rare, S.E. England, flies in daylight and at dusk". Since then it has, to my knowledge, been taken six times in mercury vapour traps. Sir Eric Ansorge (1963) recorded it three times in Buckinghamshire; D. Tozer took three in June 1964, at Bedford Purlieu in the Soke of Peterborough (Vice County 32) (see Peterken & Welch, 1975), and J. N. Greatorex-Davies (*pers. comm.*) caught one female on 22nd July, 1955, near Llanstephen, Powys (Vice County 43).

Two standard Rothamsted traps (Williams, 1948) are operated throughout the year at Monks Wood. One is situated in the corner of the Meteorological enclosure in an open area just south of the station buildings (Site A), whilst the other is situated in Compartment 22a within Monks Wood N.N.R. (Site B). During 1976 Mr. Greatorex-Davies agreed to remove all Coleoptera when sorting the Lepidoptera catches. During the first four months 33 specimens of 14 species were collected, followed by 239 (31 spp.) in May and 712 individuals of 42 species in June. At this point, because of the volume of the catch and the pressure of other work, sampling stopped, although Site B was sampled on July 1st and Site A on August 12th. The July sample contained 39 specimens of 5 species recorded in June, whereas 4 of the 6 species (12 specimens) taken in August had not been recorded in the traps during the first half of the year.

In all 1,035 specimens of 76 species were collected during 183 trapping nights. 32 species were collected from Site A only, 28 spp. from Site B, with the remaining 16 spp. occurring at both sites. The two families Cantharidae (14 spp.) and Lagriidae (1 sp.) made up 87% of the catch, with *Lagria hirta* (23%) and *Malthinus flaveolus* (22%) the most abundant. 38 species were represented by single specimens equally divided between the two sites, although the Site B catch included two

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larvae; an unidentified *Dromius* sp. (Carabidae) and one *Exochomus quadripustulatus* (Coccinellidae).

It is well known that in some species of Coleoptera only the males are attracted to light, as in the sexually dimorphic *Lampyris noctiluca*, and species in which the males have larger eyes, e.g. *Lagria hirta* and *Denticollis linearis*. All specimens collected were sexed and this produced some interesting results among the Cantharidae where < 1% were females, and these were restricted to two species of *Malthinus*. In both cases the females were taken in the wooded Site B. Although no particularly rare species were collected, eight were previously unrecorded from the Reserve and two are probably new records for Vice County 31 (Huntingdonshire). Thus even in a well collected locality the results have been rewarding enough to repeat recording of Coleoptera in the light traps during 1977.

In the following complete list of species trapped, nomenclature follows Kloet & Hincks (1945) with some minor updating: —

CARABIDAE

Amara apricaria (Pk.), 12/8, 2 ♂♂, 3 ♀♀ (A). *Demetrias atricapillus* (L.), 27-28/2, 1 ♂ (B). *Dromius quadrimaculatus* (L.), 26-28/3, 1 ♀ (B). *Dromius* sp., 21-23/5, 1 larva (B).

STAPHYLINIDAE

Anotylus sculpturatus (Gr.), 8/6, 1 ♀ (A), 1 ♀ (B); 15/6, 1 ♀ (A). *A. tetracarinatus* (Block), 18/5, 1 ♀ (A). *Platystethus nitens* Sahlb., 7-9/5, 1 ♂ (A). *Lathrobium fulvipenne* (Gr.), 21-23/5, 1 ♀ (A). *Xantholinus glabratus* (Gr.), 7-9/5, 1 ♂ (B). *Tachyporus chrysomelinus* (L.), 7-9/5, 1 ♀ (A), 18/5, 1 ♂ (A). *T. hypnorum* (F.), 14-16/5, 1 ♀ (A). *Leptusa fumida* Er., 16/3, 1 ♀ (B). *L. (Pachygluta) ruficollis* (Er.), 16/3, 1 ♀; 17/3, 1 ♂; 26-28/3, 1 ♀ (all B). *Autalia rivularis* (Gr.), 18-20/6, 1 ♂ (A). *Amischa analis* (Gr.), 11-13/6, 1 ♀ (A). *Atheta (Aloconota) gregaria* (Er.), single ♂♂ 7-9/5, 14-16/5 & 18/5; 2 ♂♂ 21-23/5; 2 ♀♀ 10-13/6 (all A). *A. (Tetropla) crassicornis* (F.), 2-4/4, 1 ♂; 6/5, 1 ♂; 7-9/5, 2 ♂♂ (all B); 12/8, 1 ♂ (A). *A. (Acrotona) fungi* (Gr.), 5/5, 2 ♀♀ (A). *Aleuonota rufotestaceus* (Kr.), 7-9/5, 1 ♀ (B). *Tinotus morion* Gr., 22/6, 1 ♀ (A). *Oxypoda brevicornis* (Steph.), 7-9/5, 1 ♀ (A). *Aleochara sparsa* Heer, 20-22/2, 1 ♂ (B). *A. stichai* Lik., 24 & 25-27/6, 2 ♀♀ (B).

SCARABAEIDAE

Aphodius rufipes (L.), 18/6-1/7, two single ♂♂ (B); single ♀♀, 1 (A) 3 (B).

ELATERIDAE

Melanotus rufipes Hbst., 21-23/5, 2 ♂♂; 27/5, 1 ♂ (all B). *Denticollis linearis* (L.), 21/5-14/6, 6 ♂♂ (all B). *Dalopius marginatus* (L.), 14/6, 1 ♂, 25-27/6, 1 ♀ (both B).

TRIXAGIDAE

Trixagus obtusus Curt., single specimens 30/4-3/5 (A) & 8/6 (B); six specimens 25-27/6 (A).

LAMPYRIDAE

Lampyris noctiluca (L.), 25-27/5, 1 ♂ (B).

CANTHARIDAE

Cantharis nigricans (Muell.), 21-23/5, 1 ♂ (B); 9/6, 1 ♂ (A).
C. livida L., 21/5-23/6, 8 ♂♂ (6 A, 2 B); single specimens
 except 3 on 15/6. *C. rufa* L., 10/6, 1 ♂ (A). *C. fulvicollis* F.,
 25-27/6, 2 ♂♂ (A). *C. cryptica* Ashe, 24 & 25-27/6, single ♂♂
 (both A). *C. decipiens* Baudi, single ♂♂ 18/5 & 7/6 (B) and
 25-27/6 (A). *Rhagonycha lutea* (Muell.), 25-27/6, 1 ♂ (A).
R. fulva Scop., 23-30/6, all males, 33 (A) 26 (B). *R. lignosa*
 (Muell.), 21/5-22/6, 191 ♂♂ (all B). *Malthinus flaveolus* (Pk.),
 9/6-1/7, 227 ♂♂, 3 ♀♀ (25-27/6) (all B). *M. fasciatus* (Ol.),
 21/6, 1 ♂ (B). *Malthodes marginatus* (Lat.), 5/5-7/6, 79 ♂♂
 (B), 2 ♂♂ (18 & 24/5) (A). *M. guttifer* Kies., 21/6-1/7, 49 ♂♂
 (B); 1 ♂ (24/6) (A). *M. minimus* (L.), 18/6-1/7, 12 ♂♂ (A);
 9 ♂♂, 3 ♀♀ (B).

ANOBIIDAE

Dryophilus pusillus (Gyll.), 8/6, 1 ♂ (B).

MELYRIDAE

Dasytes aerosus Kies., 17/5-27/6, 3 ♂♂, 4 ♀♀, all single
 specimens (all B).

NITIDULIDAE

Meligethes aeneus (F.), 25-27/6, 1 ♀ (A). *M. nigrescens* Steph.,
 5/5, 1 ♂ (B). *Epuraea distincta* (Grim.), 6/5, 1 ♀ (B). *E.*
melanocephala (Marsh.), 20/4, 1 ♀ (B); 7-9/5, 1 ♂ (A).

PHALACRIDAE

Stilbus testaceus (Pz.), 14/1, 1 ♂ (A); 28/6, 2 ♀♀ (A & B);
 12/8, 1 ♂, 1 ♀ (A).

CRYPTOPHAGIDAE

Antherophagus nigricornis (F.), 30/6, 1 ♀ (B). *Atomaria*
apicalis Er., 25-27/6, 1 ♂ (A). *A. linearis* Steph., 10/5-22/6, 5
 single ♀♀ (all A).

COCCINELLIDAE

Adalia bipunctata (L.), 18/3, 1 ♂; 6/4, 1 ♀ (both A). *A.*
decempunctata (L.), 23/6, 1 ♂; 25-27/6, 1 ♀ (both A). *Cocci-*
nella septempunctata L., 11-13/6, 1 ♀ (A). *C. undecimpunctata*
 (L.), 13-15/2 & 5/5, single ♀♀ (both A). *Calvia quattuor-*
decimguttata (L.), 9/6, 1 ♂ (B). *Exochomus quadripustulatus*
 (L.), 30/6, 1 larva (B).

LATHRIDIIDAE

Enicmus histrio Joy, 7-9/5, 1 ♀ (B).

CISIDAE

Cis bilamellatus Fowl., 7-9/5, 1 ♀; 21-23/5; 4/6, 2 ♀♀ (all B).
Rhopalodontus fronticornis Pz., 12/8, 1 ♂, 1 ♀ (A).

MYCETOPHAGIDAE

Mycetophagus atomarius F., 7-9/5, 1 ♀ (A). *Typhaea stercorea*
 (L.), 25-27/6, 1 ♀ (A).

LAGRIIDAE

Lagria hirta (L.), 24/6-1/7, all ♂♂, 240 (B), 3 (A).

MELANDRYIDAE

Orchesia minor Walk., 7-9/5, 1 ♂ (B). *Conopalpus testaceus*
 (Ol.), 25-27/6, 1 ♂ (A).

SCRAPTIIDAE

Anaspis maculata Geoff. in Fourc., 26/5, 1 ♂ (B).

ANTHICIDAE

Anthicus floralis (L.), 25-27/6, 1 ♂ (A).

BRUCHIDAE

Bruchus affinis Froeh., 12/8, 1 ♀ (A).

CHRYSOMELIDAE

Longitarsus luridus (Scop.), 5/1-31/3, 5 ♀♀ (all A). *L. suturellus* (Duft.), 12/8, 1 ♂ (A). *Psylliodes chrysocephala* L., 5/1-31/3, 5 ♂♂, 4 ♀♀ (B), 2 ♀♀ (A).

CURCULIONIDAE

Sitona lineatus (L.), 2-4/4, 1 ♂ (A); 8/4, 1 ♂ (A); 11/4, 1 ♀ (B). *S. suturalis* Steph., 26/2, 1 ♂ (A). *Dorytomus dejeani* Faust., 25-27/6, 1 ♀ (B). *Rhynchaenus quercus* (L.), 25-27/6 & 29/6, two single ♀♀ (both B).

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THE SPANISH FLY OR BLISTER BEETLE: *LYTTA VESICATORIA* L. (COL.: MELOIDAE). — Owing to its rarity and erratic appearance, many experienced coleopterists have never seen this fine brilliant green beetle, and it would be interesting to know the last time it was noticed in Britain. I once took the species more than 40 years ago and have never observed it on any other occasion. I failed to publish the record at the time, and as it may be of interest, do so now very belatedly. It was in the summer of 1935 or 1936 that I saw some 20-30 of these beetles. They were flying about in the warm sun and settling on the leaves of an ash growing in my garden at Broad Oak, near Canterbury. The insect used to be noted for its aphrodisiac properties and it is from it that oil of cantharides is extracted. There is a good coloured illustration of the beetle in Hofmann, *The Young Beetle-Collector's Handbook* (1908), plate 12, fig. 29. — J. M. CHALMERS-HUNT.